

From: Jkearney19@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 8:16pm
Subject: re: microsoft settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong desire to see the US government case against Microsoft settled as quickly as possible, and in accordance with the DOJ's most recent settlement. To allow the nine holdout states to inflict any more damage on what arguably has been the engine for the phenomenal growth of the high tech industry would be a travesty, and wholly unwarranted.

The marketplace is unforgiving to undercapitalized or less innovative companies. Virtually every industry started out as somebody's idea, only to be improved upon and bettered by somebody else. This is true of Microsoft as well. As you can see I am using AOL to send this message. I, like many others used to use lotus 123 but discontinued as Microsoft excel surpassed it in functionality. I assure you that had lotus continued to improve as rapidly as Microsoft, they would be dominant.

Moreover, I followed the case throughout and was amazed at the ignorance of the trial judge. A non user of high tech products cannot possibly determine how easy, or difficult it is to install other software, especially when that software is superior. As to monopoly, I can only imagine the chaos that would surround multiple operating systems. Eventually, the market would force one to be superior. Changing systems is not as easy as buying a different car.

For full disclosure, I own Microsoft stock but also have owned Oracle, Cisco and other high tech stocks, including some of the competitors that have fueled the drive to cripple Microsoft. Unfortunately, the overly ambitious attorney's generals of the holdout states (Iowa and my home state of Connecticut are the worst offenders) have viewed this as an opportunity to increase their own profiles for purely political reasons. I find it appalling that this case continues to drag on. Worse still is the naked grab by the European Union's Mario Monti to bring the same charges to further cripple this great company that has done so much good for the USA.

The precedents being set here will be felt, unfortunately, for years to come unless the DOJ, once and for all, ends this now. I urge you to let stand the current settlement offer to be put into effect and tolerate no further action against Microsoft.

Thank you very much for your consideration in allowing this citizen to express his views.

Sincerely,
Joseph W. Kearney

